

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in view of the above Amendment and discussion below.

Applicants' through their attorney wish to thank the Examiner for the discussion of this application by way of a telephone conference call on June 28, 2005, during which it was indicated that it was the Applicants' intention to more clearly emphasize that independent claim 8 recites that it is the contact area is bounded on one side by step 15 and not the "annular space". In accordance with the discussion, Applicants' have added this clarifying limitation, although it is submitted that claim 8 already referred to the contact areas bounded on one side, but is now further clarified. Previous arguments concerning this limitation clearly indicated that that was the intention of claim 8, thus eliminating any confusion as to the antecedent for the term "which" in claim 8.

Claim 22 has also been amended to refer to the radius as being defined by an offset in a radius of the valve member which clarifies the relationship shown in the specification and in Figure 6, in order to more clearly establish a distinction between the claimed invention and the reference to Boehland.

The final patent Office Action contains a rejection of claims 8, 9, 22, 24 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Boehland. The reference to Boehland has been cited in the Final Rejection as showing "a solenoid actuated valve with step 35 and guide surface 16".

The statement of the rejection goes on to indicate that Boehland could have "an annular space bordered by the step 15 since the structure shown does not suggest any other annular space described by the claim language". As indicated above, it is the contact area between the valve member 10 and the valve seat 13 which is bounded on one side by a step 15 which is a feature not shown by the reference to Boehland.

Applicants' additionally wish to indicate that it is not clear that the "guide surface 16" in Boehland is indeed a guide surface as the item 16 is specifically indicated as the valve member 16 in Boehland.

With respect to independent claim 22, aside from indicating once again that there is no guide surface 16 in the reference to Boehland, Applicants also submit that there is no showing of the step portion having a radius defined by an offset and the radius of the valve member with the step portion being adjoined by a flow optimizing guide surface, as shown in Figure 6 of the Applicants' invention. It is quite clear that the step 15 in Figure 6 is formed at a portion of the valve member with the radius defined by an offset in a radius of the valve member and that is adjoined by a flow optimizing guide surface. The reference to Boehland has no showing of a "guide surface" 16 adjoining an offset in the valve member 16. It appears that the radius of the valve closing member 16 has an offset in the conical sealing face 29, which is the edge 33. However, the edge 33 adjoins the annular face 35 on the valve member, contrary to the statement of the Final Rejection which indicates that the step is 35 and the guide surface is 16 which is labeled in Boehland as the valve member 16.

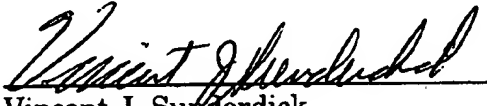
Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 8 and 22 define subject matter not shown or disclosed by the reference to Boehland and respectfully request the entrance of the above clarifying amendments in light of the statement of the showing of Boehland made in the Final Rejection.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038738.48700).

Respectfully submitted,

August 3, 2005

  
Vincent J. Sunderdick  
Registration No. 29,004

CROWELL & MORING LLP  
Intellectual Property Group  
P.O. Box 14300  
Washington, DC 20044-4300  
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500  
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844  
VJS:ddd

#388806